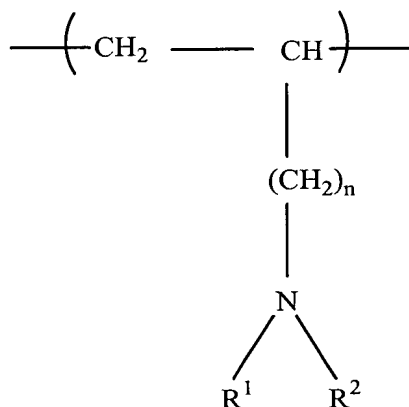


IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 26 and 27.

Please amend the following claims:

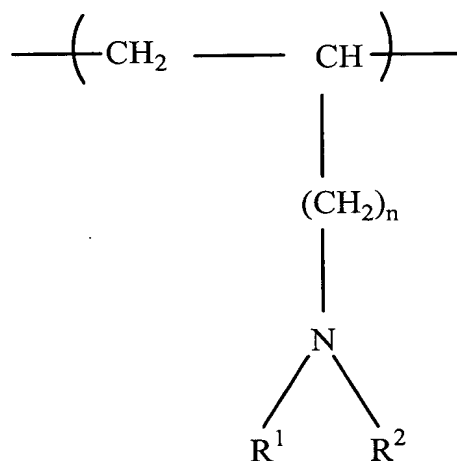
23. (Twice Amended) An ink composition consisting essentially of an alkali-soluble colorant, a water-soluble organic solvent, water, a cationic, water-soluble resin, a base which is a hydroxide of an alkali metal or an alkaline earth metal and, optionally, one or more of a nonionic water-soluble resin and an assistant selected from the group consisting of a penetration accelerator, a viscosity modifier, a surface tension modifier, a hydrotropy agent, a humectant, a pH adjustor, an antimold, a chelating agent, a preservative and a rust preventive; the cationic, water-soluble resin comprising a repeating unit represented by the following formula (I):



wherein R^1 and R^2 which may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-5} alkyl group, provided that R^1 and R^2 do not simultaneously represent a hydrogen atom; and n is 0, 1, or 2.

50. (Amended) An ink set consisting of a black ink, a yellow ink, a cyan ink, and a magenta ink, said black, yellow, cyan, and magenta inks each independently consisting essentially of an alkali-soluble colorant, a water-soluble organic solvent, water, a cationic water-soluble resin, a base which is a hydroxide of an alkali metal or an alkaline earth metal and, optionally, one or more of a nonionic water-soluble resin and an assistant selected from the group consisting of a penetration accelerator, a viscosity modifier, a surface tension modifier, a hydrotrophy agent, a humectant, a pH adjustor, an antimold, a chelating agent, a preservative and a rust preventive;

the cationic, water-soluble resin comprising a repeating unit represented by the following formula (I):



wherein R^1 and R^2 which may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-5} alkyl group, provided that R^1 and R^2 do not simultaneously represent a hydrogen atom; and

n is 0, 1, or 2,

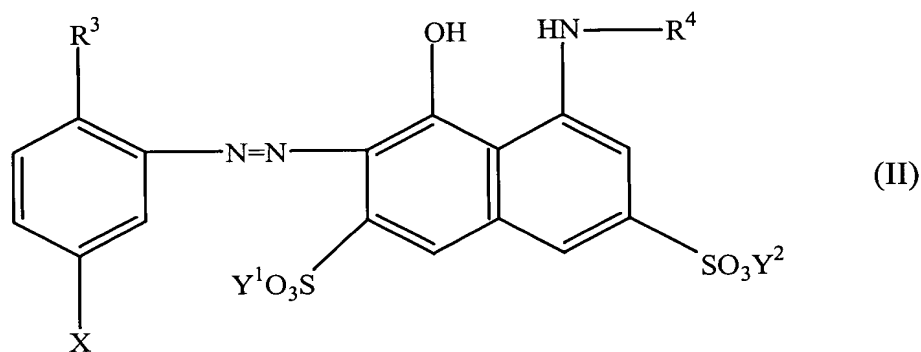
wherein the alkali-soluble colorant for the black ink is selected from the group of dyes consisting of C.I. Direct Black 19, 35, 154, 168, 171, and 195 and C.I. Food Black 2,

the alkali-soluble colorant for the yellow ink is selected from

the group of dyes consisting of C.I. Direct Yellow 50, 55, 86, 132, 142, and 144 and C.I. Acid Yellow 23,

the alkali-soluble colorant for the cyan ink is selected from the group of dyes consisting of C.I. Direct Blue 86, 87 and 199 and C.I. Blue 9 and 249,

the alkali soluble colorant for the magenta ink is selected from the group of dyes consisting of C.I. Direct Red 9 and 227, C.I. Acid Red 52 and 289, and dyes represented by the following structural formula (II):



wherein R^3 and R^4 represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-5} alkyl group, an aryl group, a C_{1-5} alkoxy group, or a phenoxy group or a derivative thereof, a triazine ring or a derivative thereof, a carboxyl group or a salt thereof, or a sulfonyl group or a derivative thereof;

X represents a hydrogen or halogen atom; and

Y^1 and Y^2 which may be same or different represent an alkali metal atom, ammonium, or a C_{1-5} alkylammonium.